AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:

an image data input unit for inputting image data;

an image data storage unit for storing the image data input through the image data input unit;

an image data processing unit for processing the image data stored in the image data storage unit; and

an image data invalidation unit for invalidating the image data stored in the image data storage unit; wherein

when there is input of a new image data through said image data input unit while said image data invalidation unit is performing invalidation of a preceding image data stored in said image data storage unit, said image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to interrupt the invalidation of said preceding image data stored in said image data storage unit ~~so as to invalidate said preceding image data with said new image data being input to said device~~, and the image data invalidation unit is configured to invalidate said preceding image data by writing the new input image data over a region in which the preceding data is stored.

2. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:

an image data input unit for inputting image data;

an image data storage unit for storing the image data input through the image data input unit;

an image data processing unit for processing the image data stored in the image data

storage unit; and

an image data invalidation unit for invalidating the image data stored in the image data

storage unit; wherein

when there is input of a new image data through said image data input unit after a

preceding image data has been processed but before said image data invalidation unit has

~~completed~~ started the invalidation of [[a]] said preceding image data stored in said image data

storage unit, said image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to store said

~~invalidate said preceding image data with a~~ new image data being input to said device.

3. (Currently amended) An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein said

image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to invalidate said new image data

together with said preceding image data when performing invalidation of said new image data

being input through said image data input unit.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing device according to claim 2, wherein said

image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to invalidate said new image data

together with said preceding image data when performing invalidation of said new image data

being input through said image data input unit.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:

an image data input unit for inputting image data;

an image data storage unit for storing the image data input through the image data input

unit;

an image data processing unit for processing the image data stored in the image data

storage unit; and

an image data invalidation unit for invalidating the image data stored in the image data storage unit; wherein

when there is input of a new image data through said image data input unit while said image data invalidation unit is performing invalidation of a preceding image data stored in said image data storage unit, said image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to interrupt the invalidation of said preceding image data stored in said image data storage unit so as to store in said image data storage unit said new image data being input to said device.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:

an image data input unit for inputting image data;

an image data storage unit for storing the image data input through the image data input unit;

an image data processing unit for processing the image data stored in the image data storage unit; and

an image data invalidation unit for invalidating the image data stored in the image data storage unit; wherein

said image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to interrupt the invalidation of a preceding image data stored in said image data storage unit when input of a new image data through said image data input unit is confirmed while said image data invalidation unit is performing invalidation of said preceding image data being stored in said image data storage unit, so as to store said new image data in a region of said image data storage unit that is different from the region in which said preceding image data is stored.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing device according to claim 6, wherein said image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to invalidate said new image data

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together with said preceding image data when performing invalidation of said new image data being input through said image data input unit.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing device according to claim 6, wherein when there is input of a new image data through said image data input unit while said image data invalidation unit is performing invalidation of a preceding image data being stored in said image data storage unit, said image data invalidation unit ~~comprises a function~~ is configured to interrupt the invalidation of the preceding image data stored in said image data storage unit so as to store in said image data storage unit the new image data being input to said device.

9. (Original) An image processing device comprising:

an image data input unit for inputting image data;

an image data storage unit for storing the image data input through the image data input unit;

an image data processing unit for processing the image data stored in the image data storage unit;

an image data invalidation unit for invalidating the image data stored in the image data storage unit; and

a determination unit for determining whether to prioritize the invalidation by said image data invalidation unit of a preceding image data stored in said image data storage unit or the storage of a new image data being input through said image data input unit to said image data storage unit, based on the contents of said image data.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing device according to claim 9, wherein said determination unit ~~is equipped with a function~~ is configured to determine, according to a security level set for said preceding image data being invalidated by said image data invalidation

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unit, whether to continue invalidation of said preceding image data by said image data invalidation unit or to interrupt the invalidation of said preceding image data by said image data invalidation unit so as to store said new image data being input through said image data input unit to said image data storage unit.

11. (Original) An image processing device according to claim 9, further comprising a first security level setting unit for setting up a security level for the image data being input to said device.

12. (Original) An image processing device according to claim 9, further comprising a second security level setting unit for setting up a security level for each route of input of said image data to said device.

13. (New) An image processing device according to claim 5, wherein said new image data is stored in said image data storage unit after one sequence of invalidating of said preceding image data is completed.

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